

REMARKS

Independent claims 1, 5, 6, 10, and 17 have been amended to further clarify the claimed invention in view of the Examiner's comments made in the above-referenced final office action.

In his response to the applicant's last presented arguments concerning the patentability of the claimed invention, the Examiner concedes the distinctions presented by the applicant; but, the Examiner argues that the claims are not commensurate in scope with the such distinguishing features. The aforementioned independent claims are, therefore, amended to include the distinguishing features noted by the Examiner. Each of the independent claims have been amended to recite that the channels of the catalytic monolith are "uni-directional or multi-directional," and the claims are further amended to more clearly indicate that the heat flows to either equalize the temperature profile or to reduce the tube wall temperature, as recited in the claims, is accomplished "without use of a heat transfer means".

In view of the above, the applicant respectfully suggests that the claims as they are now amended are clearly patentable. Thus, early allowance of claims 1, 5-23 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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